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## AN APPEAL TO ALL NATIONS ON BEHALF OF PEACE.

The Sixth Universal Peace Congress which met at Antwerp, in the month of August last, and which was attended by delegates from most European countries and from the United States of America, resolved to make an earnest appeal to all who desire the establishment of the reign of Peace and Goodwill among men.

The voice of reason and humanity grows ever louder in its protest against the excessive military burdens, and against the universal danger created by an armed peace.

At the present time there are more than a hundred Peace Societies in Europe; and petitions in favor of their aims have been signed by hundreds of thousands of persons; while branches of the body entitled "the Inter-parliamentary Conference" have been formed in almost all Parliaments; and the members of that Conference, at their annual meetings, decide what resolutions shall be brought before their respective Parliaments, with the view of securing international relations between the different States, based upon justice.

All these bodies are striving with one accord to remove the danger of war; and to banish as far as possible the misunderstandings and the prejudices which occasion it. To effect this object, these workers for Peace appeal, through an active propaganda, to public opinion, inasmuch as the sympathetic support of the public is indispensable to the realization of every great ideal.

Peace among civilized nations is, at the present day, not merely a pious wish or a philanthropic idea; it is an imperative need, and a necessary result of the progress of civilization.

The political and moral necessities which compel people of common origin, but divided into small separate States, to combine in those great international unions which form one of the triumphs of our age, will, in the near future, induce nations of one continent to unite for the representation and defence of their common interests. International Congresses of every kind, and international agreements for such objects as health, railways, telegraphs, navigation, etc., indicate the tendency of our time — towards the creation of ever wider associations of interests.

For this reason warlike sentiments are losing ground every day. The masses of the population know intuitively that every war leaves behind it a sad legacy of bloodshed, slavery and barbarism, while Peace contains within it germs of a settlement of every quarrel,—based on justice and equity to all men.

Even those governments which are least influenced by modern ideas understand the nature of these new aspirations, and lose no opportunity of declaring themselves partisans of Peace, and of friendly relations between neighbors. An illustration of the growth of this new spirit was shown in the recent manifestation of profound

sympathy for France, on the part of the powerful monarchs of Europe, when the honored head of the French Republic perished by the assassin's knife.

Let there be no hesitation, then, in undertaking "war against war," whatever may be the obstacles to the triumph of our cause — which is Union of Nations!

The animal instinct in man, fed on cruelty and carnage, is not yet altogether extinct; and too many people are interested in keeping it alive by presenting to us the perspective of fresh wars in the future.

To regard a neighboring nation as a hateful stranger, and the stranger an enemy—to recall ancient grievances which our common interest should make us forget—to ascribe hostile intentions to harmless acts; to exaggerate the smallest incidents; constantly to create panics among the peoples by inaccurate or false news,—such are the methods to which politicians and newspapers too often resort, and which retard the advent of a durable peace in Europe.

On the other hand, the program of the peacemakers is to counteract these devices, to substitute for ancient and ignorant prejudices and hatreds, just and sound ideas, the result of civilization and science; to repeat everywhere that War perpetuates disputes instead of settling them; and that, instead of resorting to battles and bloodshed, ruinous to the victors as to the vanquished, it is better to seek for a definite and peaceful settlement in Arbitration. These are the principles which inspired those who took part in the recent Congress at Antwerp.

Quite recently a distinguished Minister, Count Kalnoky, appealed to the Peace Congresses, calling on them to endeavor to suppress those false alarms which are chronic with certain newspapers.

This is indeed what the Peace Congresses and Peace Societies have always done; but, if their work is to be truly efficacious, and yield the results that should be expected, then it is essential that the more reasonable part of the population everywhere, which indeed can impose its will, should combine its efforts with ours in combined and powerful action.

Then, but not until then, will nations be able to face the future without apprehension; and the present will be freed from the suffering occasioned by the distressing condition of industry, commerce and agriculture,—all of them sacrificed to monstrous armaments, while pauperism ever becomes more threatening, in the face of millions sterling engulfed in the bottomless abyss of war budgets. We therefore address our earnest appeal to those numerous friends of Peace, who, up to the present, may have thought they stood alone. We say to them: "Declare everywhere your principles of humanity. Join us in the good fight for Peace! Enter our Societies, which have their doors wide open to you; and the century will not close before a beneficent breeze has scattered the dark clouds which to-day threaten States, families and individuals!"

HOUZEAU DE LAHAIE,  
*Chairman of the Congress.*

H. LA FONTAINE, *General Secretary.*  
*Antwerp, Nov. 20, 1894.*